Writing Bibliographic Citations in MLA 8th Edition

The 8th edition of the MLA Style Manual seeks to simplify citations by moving to a more flexible set of general principles rather than rigid guidelines determined by format. The goal is to create citations that make sense to a reader while being consistent and thorough.

Citations are now composed of the core elements listed below. If any of these elements are not present (e.g. no author), omit the element.

1. Author.   (last name, first name)
2. Title of source.   (either in italics or quotation marks, depending on the type of source)
3. Title of container,   (italicized, the larger whole from which a part is used, e.g. a short story in an anthology)
4. Other contributors,   (might include editors, translators, etc. who are necessary to identify source)
5. Version,   (for example, 8th ed. or Authorized King James Version)
6. Number,   (if the source is part of a numbered sequence such as a journal or TV series)
7. Publisher,   (this is not needed for the following: periodicals, self-published works, websites where the title and publisher are the same, websites that make content available but don't actually publish the content, e.g. YouTube)
8. Publication date,   (if multiple dates, use the date that is most relevant to your use or, if you are unsure, the original publication date)
9. Location.   (specific page numbers or website URLs)

Citations should be double-spaced and use a hanging indent if more than 1 line long.

The general format for any kind of source would be:

Author. *Title.* Title of container, Other contributors (translators or editors), Version (edition),

Number (vol. and/or no.), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages, paragraphs, URL

or DOI). Date of Access (if applicable).

The complete MLA Handbook, 8th edition is located in the library's reference collection. The call number is R 808.027 M658m8. Additional copies can be found in the general collection and are available for checkout.

Helpful links:

The Purdue Owl: MLA Style   The MLA Style Center

See below for examples of common types of sources. Refer to the *MLA Handbook* for further information.

BOOKS

1. Book with One Author

Ambrose, Stephen E. *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the*

   Opening of the American West. Simon and Schuster, 1996.

2. Book with Editor(s)

Rumsey, Nichola and Diana Harcourt, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of the Psychology of*

   Appearance. Oxford, 2012.

3. Book with Multiple Authors—authors are listed in the same order as listed in the book. If there are more than 3 authors, list only the first author followed by the phrase et al. (Latin for "and others").

Jeffrey, David Lyle and Gregory Maillet. *Christianity and Literature.* IVP Academic, 2011.

Wysocki, Anne Frances, et al. *Writing New Media.* Utah State, 2004.

4. A Particular Edition of a Book

McNally, Elizabeth Ann. *Middle School General Music.* 2nd ed., Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.

5. The Bible

The Bible. Authorized King James Version, Oxford UP, 1998.

6. An Article in a Reference Book (dictionary, encyclopedia, etc.)

"Knothole Gang." *The Dickson Baseball Dictionary.* 3rd ed., W.W. Norton, 2009.

7. **A Multivolume Work**—if citing only 1 volume, include the volume number after the title or editor's name. If citing more than 1 volume, include the total number of volumes at the end of the entry.

Roth, John K., ed. *World Philosophers and Their Works.* vol. 1, Salem Press, 2000.

Turner, Jane, ed. *The Dictionary of Art.* Grove's, 1996. 34 vols.

8. **Electronic Books**—an e-book is considered a version of the print book. If you are using a specific type of e-book (Kindle, EPUB), specify that type. Otherwise, use the generic "e-book."

Weaver, H. Dwight. *Missouri Caves in History and Legend.* e-book, University of Missouri Press,

2008.

JOURNALS, MAGAZINES, AND OTHER PERIODICALS

1. **An Article with One Author**

Briley, Ronald. "Bringing World Cinema into the History Curriculum." *Teaching History,* vol. 41,

no. 2, Fall, 2016, pp. 73-83.

2. **Articles with More Than One Author--** authors are listed in the same order as listed in the book. If there are more than 3 authors, list only the first author followed by the phrase et al. (Latin for "and others").

Burtness, Paul S., and Warren U. Ober. "Communication Lapses Leading To the Pearl Harbor

Disaster." *Historian*, vol. 75, no. 4, 2013, pp. 740-759.

3. **Article Accessed Via a Database**—include the name of the database and a DOI (Digital Object Identifier), Permalink, or URL if available. Omit the http:// from URLs. The date of access is optional.

Shipman, Pat. "The Cost of the Wild." *American Scientist*, vol. 100, no. 6, 2012., pp. 454-457.

   ProQuest Central, search.proquest.com/docview/1273695547?accountid=130237.

Ripple, William J., et al. "Trophic Cascades From Wolves To Grizzly Bears In Yellowstone."

   Journal of Animal Ecology, vol. 81, no. 1, 2014, pp. 223-233. *Academic Search Complete*,

   doi:10.1111/1365-2656.12123. Accessed 16 Dec. 2016.

WEBSITES

1. **An Entire Website**—include as many of the core elements as possible. Date of access is optional but encouraged due to the frequency of change with websites. Omit the http:// from URLs.

Nature. PBS, 2016, www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/. Accessed 9 Dec. 2016.

2. **A Specific Page on a Website**—if the website name and the publisher are the same, only include the name once as the name of the website, i.e. the container for the specific page.

"Cat." *Wikipedia,* 6 Dec. 2016, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cat. Accessed 9 Dec. 2016.

3. **An Article on a Website**

Zuraw, Lydia. "Searching for a Vaccine for the Plague." *Newsweek,* 9 Dec. 2016,

   www.newsweek.com/searching-vaccine-plague-529897. Accessed 21 Dec. 2016.